

Applicant: Richard B. Himmelstein
Application No.: 09/585,151

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-51 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 7-12, 36-38, 40, 43, and 45-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML 4.0 Specification" (hereinafter "HTML") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,416 to Anand et al. (hereinafter "Anand"). Claims 3, 4, 39, 41, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Hyperactions in a Markup Language." Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Distributed Databases." Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Distributed Databases" and "Module mod_log_common." Claims 6, 20, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,034 to Albal.

By the foregoing amendments, Applicant has amended claim 40 to provide additional detail regarding the operation of the search unit. New dependent claims 49-51 have been added, and provide additional detail pertaining to the location of the information retrieved by the search unit recited in claim 40.

HTML discloses the building blocks for any HTML-based document, including such items as tables having columns and rows.

Anand discloses a method and tabular data stream format “for marshaling tabular data for transfer between clients and servers” (column 2, lines 3-12). In the method of Anand, a user queries a remote database via a client process. This query is sent to a Web server, which queries databases via a database interface (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 3; column 5, lines 46-53).

The information is retrieved from the databases and is sent back to the user, via an Advanced Data TableGram (ADTG) format. The user manipulates a local copy of the retrieved data. If the user makes changes to the data, the changes are uploaded to the databases via the ADTG format. (See column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3.)

While the method and data format of Anand permit a user to indirectly manipulate data stored in one or more remote databases, the disclosures of HTML and Anand, taken together, do not disclose the features of the present invention. In particular, the cited references do not disclose a type of search that matches information in a key phrase field and in each of a plurality of column headings, as recited in independent claims 1, 39, 40, and 46 of the present invention. Anand contains no mention of the types of queries that are performed. The key feature disclosed in Anand is that a query returns data in a tabular format, according to the ADTG format defined in the specification. There is no hint or suggestion in Anand

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that would lead one skilled in the art to create a query that is a combination of a key phrase field and a column heading as recited in the present invention.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner cites the following additional sections of Anand. Column 1, lines 40-54, which relates to using CGI scripts to present dynamic Web content to a user. Column 2, lines 3-20, which describes the tabular data stream format (ADTG) of the invention of Anand. Column 2, line 64 to column 3, line 8, which discloses the metadata that is included in an ADTG message and how an ADTG message can be used to update the database that provided the query results. Column 7, lines 45-58, which relates to retrieving query results from a database and to retrieving metadata about the database rows in which the query results were found. Column 14, lines 36-51, which describes some of the metadata regarding the base table that are returned with the query results.

The Examiner uses these sections of Anand to support the position that “a ‘database query’ known by its plain meaning within the art is a query that includes at least one column name and a table name.” (Office Action, page 5.) While the designer of a database query would need to know the column name and table name if using SQL as noted by the Examiner, the column name and the table name only instruct the query where to look for the information. The column name and the table name only form part of the query itself when the query is to return the entire column from the table. (See the “SQL The SELECT Statement” reference.)

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In the present invention, the column names in the data table are used to define the query itself in connection with the key phrase field. The column names in the data table do not provide any indication of where to look for the information. This distinction is clearly recited in independent claims 1, 39, 40, and 46. As recited in independent claims 1, 39, and 46, the search unit “matches the information in said key phrase field and in each of said column headings”; and as recited in independent claim 40, the search unit “matches the information in said key phrase field and in at least one of said column headings.”

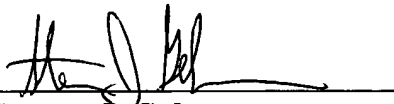
It is respectfully submitted that the amendments and remarks made herein place pending claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-51 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-51 are respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 215-568-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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